

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:LEKENNEDY:EBS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRC EARTHQUAKE

FOLLOWING ARE THE REMARKS MADE BY DEPT. SPOKESMAN AT
JULY 28 PRESS BRIEFING AND A SUMMARY OF STATEMENT MADE BY
NESSEN AT THE JULY 28 WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING:

1. NESSEN STATEMENT:

NESSEN SAID THAT AMB. GATES HAD REPORTED THAT ALL
AMERICAN CITIZENS IN PEKING WERE SAFE. NESSEN ALSO STATED
THAT THE US HAD OFFERED "IN PRINCIPLE" ANY ASSISTANCE
NEEDED BY THE CHINESE. HE WAS NOT QUESTIONED FURTHER ON
MATTER.

2. TEXT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING:

QUOTE:

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Q. DO YOU HAVE REPORTS ON SAFETY AND WELFARE OF ANY

AMERICANS IN CHINA IN THE WAKE OF THE EARTHQUAKE?

A. YES. OUR LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING INFORMED US THAT ALL AMERICANS THERE WERE SAFE AND WELL. I THINK WE HAVE AROUND 30 EMPLOYEES; AND THERE ARE 18 WIVES, I THINK, AND 8 CHILDREN. AND, IN ADDITION TO THAT, I AM TOLD THAT THERE ARE ABOUT A HUNDRED AMERICAN TECHNICIANS WORKING FOR AN AMERICAN COMPANY WHICH HAS BEEN BUILDING FERTILIZER PLANTS IN CHINA. THIS COMPANY HAS INFORMED US THAT ALL ITS EMPLOYEES ARE SAFE AND WELL.

I WOULD, ON THAT EVENT, LIKE TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES DEEP SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE FOR THE EARTHQUAKE WHICH HAS OCCURRED; AND WE ARE INDICATING TO THEM THAT WE ARE READY TO BE OF APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

Q. WHICH MEANS WHAT--THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO SEND HUMANITARIAN AID?

A. YES.

Q. SUCH AS?

A. WE WILL JUST HAVE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

Q. IS CHINA A MEMBER OF THE ICRC?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

Q. DO YOU KNOW THE FERTILIZER COMPANY, BY ANY CHANCE?

A. I THINK IT IS THE N.W. KELLOGG COMPANY.

Q. BOB, WHEN THERE WAS AN EARTHQUAKE IN INDONESIA, DID YOU EXPRESS THE SAME SORT OF SYMPATHY AND MAKE THE SAME OFFERS OF HELP?

A. I BELIEVE WE DID, YES.

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Q. WAS AID SENT TO INDONESIA, DO YOU KNOW?

A. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK THAT. I BELIEVE SO, BUT LET ME CHECK INTO IT. KISSINGER

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